

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 through 5, 9 through 17, and 19 through 21 stand rejected. Claims 6 through 8, 18 and 22 have been objected to. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to clarify the inventive subject matter and expedite prosecution of this application. Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner that claims 6 through 8, 18 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants provide the following arguments in response to the rejection of the pending claims.

In the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to by the Official Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 for various informalities. A letter to the Official Draftsperson is provided with this Amendment transmitting drawings that have been revised to address each of the grounds of objection. Withdrawal of the drawing objections is respectfully requested.

In the Claims

Claims 1 through 5, 9 through 17, and 19 through 21 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,537,231 granted to Hisada et al. ("*Hisada*") in view of U.S. Patent 5,341,318 granted to Balkanski et al. ("*Balkanski*"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hisada in view of *Balkanski* fails to provide a prima facie basis for rejection of claims 1 through 5, 9 through 17, and 19 through 21, as amended. *Hisada* discloses a facsimile machine in which the facsimile data is transmitted in either a monochrome

or a color coding scheme. If a monochrome coding scheme is used, no luminance image data is transmitted. Likewise, if a color coding scheme is used, then the intensity data and the luminance data are compressed in sequence. *Hisaka* col.4 lines 11 through 32. In *Balkanski*, the intensity data is also compressed in sequence with the luminance image data, and is not processed separately. See, e.g., *Balkanski*, col. 20 lines 31 through 57.

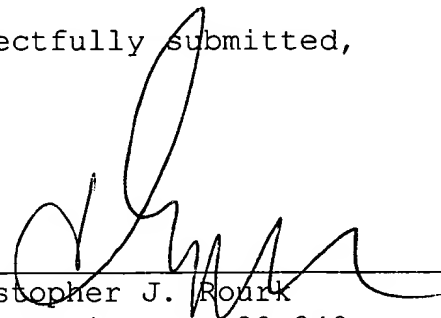
Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to clarify that the compression of the intensity data and the luminance image data occur in parallel, in order to expedite prosecution and clarify the inventive subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 through 5, 9 through 17, and 19 through 21 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicants have made a diligent effort to advance the prosecution of this application by amending independent Claims 1 and 12 to expedite prosecution and clarify the inventive subject matter. Applicants request for the above mentioned reasons, and others readily apparent, that the rejections of claims 1 through 5, 9 through 17, and 19 through 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance of Claims 1 through 22 as now presented is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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